

From: Scott Key
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern.

Please make sure that Microsoft pays actual out-of-pocket money in the upcoming settlement. I wish you would go further and actually stop their monopoly and unfair business practices.

Microsoft is a company without a conscience -- perhaps the greatest software pirate of all time -- known by all in the industry as a company which would rather steal something than design it for themselves. Then they have the gall to call it "innovation" when they release it. Have you ever tried Windows Media Player and compared it to QuickTime?

Even today, in Windows XP, they release MS Java which effectively kills Sun's inter-platform True Java -- a product which a few years ago even Microsoft itself adopted as a "standard."

Java gave the internet viability. Now Microsoft is effectively removing it as the standard they once supported. That again shows their monopolistic power and their actions erode compatibility. Think of the calculator keypad and the telephone keypad. Why are they opposite of one another. Think of the Dvorak keyboard unadopted by the U.S. -- even after the Navy Department recommended purchase of 80,000 typewriters in WWII. That keyboard is way more efficient and less error prone. THINK of how many fewer carpal tunnel injuries there would be had someone stood up for the better mousetrap.

We computer professionals desire -- no demand -- innovation. We do not get it from Microsoft.

Please be careful of anything proposed by their legal team. Their recent agreement to give a billion dollars worth of software and hardware to under-privileged schools was a sham.

I bet if you figure their true out-of-pocket expense in that proposal, it would have come closer to \$100 million. You don't really think that they spent \$500 for each copy of MS Office they would "give" to schools. More likely their true cost is \$20-\$50 per unit. Add to that their trojan horse attempt to gain a foothold in the Apple-dominated education market and you can see they are very slippery operators, indeed.

Please do not fall for Enron-style accounting. Make them pay and stop their monopoly.

Can you believe their attitude? -- even as one settlement is proposed, others Like AOL are having to sue to have a chance at viability.

In their arrogance, the recent Windows XP was so full of security holes -- in this time of war -- that they single-handedly eroded the security of the internet. There certainly must have been a pretty big problem for DOD and Justice Department, etc. to call them on the phone. Then to have Steve Balmer refuse to have his company email purchasers of Windows XP just shows that you are not able to control these guys.

Do not white wash this one.

Thanks for reading this.

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